IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of claims of the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing audio-based data associated with a particular language, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the audio-based data;

generating a textual representation of the audio-based data, the textual representation being in the form of one or more semantic units corresponding to the audio-based data, wherein ~~a~~ each of at least a portion of the one or more semantic units comprises ~~a minimal unit of language having a semantic meaning~~ a sub-unit of a word and not a complete word itself; and

indexing the one or more semantic units and storing the one or more indexed semantic units for use in searching the stored audio-based data in response to a user query, wherein at least one segment of the stored audio-based data is retrievable by obtaining a location indicative of where the at least one segment is stored from a direct correspondence between at least one of the indexed semantic units and the at least one segment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semantic unit is a syllable.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the syllable is a phonetically based syllable.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semantic unit is a morpheme.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step comprises decoding the audio-based data in accordance with a speech recognition system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the speech recognition system employs a semantic unit based language model.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the indexing step comprises time stamping the one or more semantic units.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching step comprises:

processing the user query to generate one or more semantic units representing the information that the user seeks to retrieve;

searching the one or more indexed semantic units to find a substantial match with the one or more semantic units associated with the user query; and

retrieving one or more segments of the audio-based data using the one or more indexed semantic units that match the one or more semantic units associated with the user query.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the searching step further comprises presenting the retrieved data to the user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular language is an Asian based language.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the particular language is Chinese.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the semantic unit is a Chinese character.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular language is a Slavic based language.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more semantic units are indexed according to speaker attributes.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more semantic units are indexed according to at least one of when the audio based data was produced and where the audio based data was produced.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing video based data associated with the audio based data for use in searching the stored audio based data and the video based data in response to a user query.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the searching step includes a hierarchical search routine.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step comprises stenographically transcribing the audio-based data to generate the textual representation.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing audio-based data associated with a particular language, the apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i)store the audio-based data in the memory; (ii) generate a textual representation of the audio-based data, the textual representation being in the form of one or more semantic units corresponding to the audio-based data, wherein a~ each of at least a portion of the one or more semantic unit̲s comprises a~minimal~unit of~language~having~a~semantic~meaning a sub-unit of a word and not a complete word itself; and (iii) index the one or more semantic units and store the one or more indexed semantic units for use in searching the stored audio-based data in response to a user query, wherein at least one segment of the stored audio-based data is retrievable by obtaining a location indicative of where the at least one segment is stored from a direct correspondence between at least one of the indexed semantic units and the at least one segment.

20. (Currently Amended) An audio-based data indexing and retrieval system for processing audio-based data associated with a particular language, the system comprising:

memory for storing the audio-based data;

a semantic unit based speech recognition system for generating a textual representation of the audio-based data, the textual representation being in the form of one or more semantic units

corresponding to the audio-based data, wherein ~~a~~ <u>each of at least a portion of the one or more</u> semantic unit<u>s</u> comprises ~~a minimal unit of language having a semantic meaning~~ <u>a sub-unit of a</u> <u>word and not a complete word itself</u>;

an indexing and storage module, operatively coupled to the semantic unit based speech recognition system and the memory, for indexing the one or more semantic units and storing the one or more indexed semantic units; and

a search engine, operatively coupled to the indexing and storage module and the memory, for searching the one or more indexed semantic units for a match with one or more semantic units associated with a user query, and for retrieving the stored audio based data based on the one or more indexed semantic units, wherein at least one segment of the stored audio-based data is retrievable by obtaining a location indicative of where the at least one segment is stored from a direct correspondence between at least one of the indexed semantic units and the at least one segment.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the speech recognition system employs a syllable language model.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein production of the syllable language model comprises the steps of:

transcribing audio data to generate syllables;

deriving conditional probabilities of distribution based on the generated syllables; and

using syllable counts and the conditional probabilities to construct the syllable language model.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user query comprises a word.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the searching step further comprises transforming the word into a sequence of syllables using a text-to-phonetic syllable map.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein a phonetically-based syllable comprises a toneme.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein two or more different pronunciations are associated with a phonetically-based syllable.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step comprises producing the textual representation via stenography.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching step comprises use of a hierarchical index.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching step comprises use of an automatic boundary marking system.